In its 2018 report, the Republican majority on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence published the GOP draft planks on Ukraine to show the platform was strengthen not weakened during final approval in July 2016 in Cleveland.

#### **Before:**

planning."82

## UNCLASSIFIED

### Original RNC Plank

(U) In the international arena, weakness invites aggression. The results of the [Obama] Administration's unilateral approach to disarmament are already clear: An emboldened China in the South China Sea, a resurgent Russia occupying parts of Ukraine and threatening neighbors from the Baltic to the Caucasus, an aggressive Islamist terrorist network in Middle East. All our adversaries heard the message in the [Obama] Administration's cut-backs: America is weaker and retreating.

### UNCLASSIFIED

After: The final platform pledged assistance to

Ukraine military and contained the threat of new sanctions.

# UNCLASSIFIED

## Final RNC Plank

(U) We support maintaining and, if warranted, increasing sanctions, together with our ailies, against Russia unless and until Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity are fully restored. We also support providing appropriate assistance to the armed forces of Ukraine and greater coordination with NATO defense planning.

### UNCLASSIFIED

The draft platform already contained tough language on Russian "belligerence." It remained in final platform.

"For the people of Russia, we affirm our respect and our determination to maintain a friendship beyond the reach of those who wish to divide us. We have common imperatives: Ending terrorism, combating nuclear proliferation, promoting trade, and more. We also have a common problem: The continuing erosion of personal liberty and fundamental rights under the current officials in the Kremlin. Repressive at home and reckless abroad, their policies imperil the nations which regained their self-determination upon the collapse of the Soviet Union. We will meet the return of Russian belligerence with the same resolve that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. We will not accept any territorial change in Eastern Europe imposed by force, in Ukraine, Georgia, or elsewhere, and will use all appropriate constitutional measures to bring to justice the practitioners of aggression and assassination."